

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim status/Amendments

Claims 1-20 are cancelled (see Preliminary Amendment filed May 3, 2005). Claims 21-34 and 37-40 are withdrawn as a result of the restriction requirement dated October 17, 2008; and claims 35-36 have been examined. In this response claim 35 has been amended to further clarify the subject matter for which patentable protection is sought.

New claims 41 and 42 are presented for examination. These new claims are drawn to the elected invention, find full support in the originally filed specification and drawings and are set forth subject matter which is neither disclosed in nor suggested by the cited art.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102

The rejection of claims 35-36 under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Tokita et al. (5,619,765), is, to the degree that it still pertains to the claims as amended, respectfully traversed.

In this response, claim 35 has been amended to call for a system comprising a detacher (13) for detaching the IC tag (1) from the paper sheet (2) by applying external force using a stream or jet of water to an adhesive surface between the swollen paper sheet (2) and the IC tag (1) in the stream of water. This amendment is based on the description found on page 13, lines 14-20 of the original specification.

Tokita (US Patent 5,619,765), on the other hand, is, at column 5, lines 10-16 and Figure 2, such as to disclose: *The separating member is held in contact with the medium 10 under the application of pressure or pressure and heat. As a result, the substance 11 is transferred from the medium 10 to a separation roller 302. The separating member may be implemented by the roller 302 itself, depending on the material of the roller 302.*

In other words, Tokita merely discloses a technique for transferring a film-like image forming substance 11 from a paper (recording medium 10) to a roller (separation roller 302) with the contact pressure between the paper and the roller. Consequently, the technique of Tokita is totally different from the present invention defined in amended claim 35.

Furthermore, with claim 35 it is possible to reuse the IC tag (1) without damage detached from the swollen paper sheet (2) by applying the jet water to between the paper sheet (2) and the IC tag (1).

In Tokita, the detached toner/film-like image forming substance 11 is not reused. Accordingly, in concept, the Tokita's technique and the present invention of amended Claim 35 are totally different each other.

Claim 36, which remains un-amended, calls for a system comprises a cleaner (-) for cleaning the IC tag (1) detached from the paper sheet (2) to remove paper and/or an adhesive adhering to the IC tag (1).

Whereas, Tokita, at column 8 lines 7-9, discloses : *A cleaning device 304 cleans the surfaces of the separation roller 302 and is driven by a drive section, not shown.*

In other words, Tokita does not disclose a technique of washing toner (substance 11) detached from the paper (medium 10). Indeed, the Tokita arrangement is directed to cleaning and collecting the paper, not the material which is removed from the paper. The claimed arrangement is directed to the very reverse. Indeed, the paper is broken down by the process via which the IC tag is removed, separated from the tags via a floatation process, then separated into waste water and paper material (see Fig. 2 of this instant application).

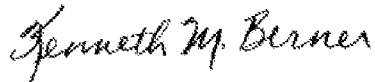
Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 11-0219 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
KANESAKA BERNER & PARTNERS, LLP



Kenneth M. Berner
Registration No. 37,093

1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1111
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile
Date: April 24, 2009
KMB/KT/cac